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SAIGON TEHRAN USUN NEW YORK FROM GENEVA 13 JUNE REPEATED

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TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJ: UNDP 16 TH GC - COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW AND APPROVAL
FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

REF: GENEVA 2815

1. SUMMARY: SIX COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN AGENDA RELEASED BY UNDP ON MAY 11 WERE: AFGHANISTAN, IRAN, MALDIVES, PAKISTAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AND REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ON JUNE 11 PRESENTATION OF THESE CPS TO PRIVATE MEETING 16 TH SESSION GC, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ASIA AND FAR EAST (AA/ ASIA) COOMARASWAMY REQUESTED DEFERRAL OF CP FOR VIETNAM BECAUSE OF NEW EIGHT- YEAR PLAN PER REFTEL. OTHER FIVE CPS ACCORDED HIGH PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, WITH EXCEPTION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA WHICH EARMARKS 72 PERCENT OF CP FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING. AA/ ASIA OUTLINED INNOVATIONS IN PROGRAMMING:

(1) IRAN CP INTRODUCES NEW FINANCING DIMENSION BY GOI
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CONTRIBUTING \$12 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO SUPPLEMENT \$20 MILLION IPF;

(2) AFGHANISTAN CP RELATES ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO NATIONAL SECTORAL TARGETS WITH CP AN APPENDIX TO RGA NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN;

(3) PAKISTAN CP INCLUDES UNPROGRAMMED RESERVE OF \$1.7 MILLION ON SECTORAL BASIS TO ENSURE FLEXIBILITY UNTIL NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN. TWENTY- SIX COUNTRIES INTERVENED IN FOUR HOURS DISCUSSIONS ON FIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMS. US DELEGATION (AMB. BENNETT) SUPPORTED FIVE PROGRAMS AND ANALYZED EFFECTIVENESS TO DATE OF UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING SYSTEM IN ASIA AND FAR EAST. END SUMMARY.

2. AA/ ASIA COOMARASWAMY PRESENTED DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PROPORTIONS

IPF DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, INFRA- STRUCTURE, EDUCATION, INDUSTRIES AND PLANNING SECTORS. HE OBSERVED THAT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL AND UNDP PRIORITIES MIGHT BE MADE ON BASIS OF COMPARATIVE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES OF RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT COMPARED WITH ALLOCATION UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMS. YET HE FELT A MORE QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS PREFERABLE. AFGHANISTAN' S CP HAS HARMONIZED UNDP RESOURCES WITH NATIONAL PLAN AND RGA NOW REQUIRES DETAILED ANNUAL SECTOR REVIEWS INCLUDING ALL UNDP PROJECTS, AFTER WHICH PLANS FOR COMING YEAR ARE FINALIZED. PAKISTAN CP DID NOT INCLUDE MANY SMALL SCALE PROJECTS AS RESULT OF INTENSIVE REVIEW WHILE MALDIVES CP LISTED 69 PROJECTS WITH THOSE BEYOND IPF TO BE PRESENTED TO OTHER BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DONORS. AA/ ASIA PARTICULARLY PROUD OF IRAN' S \$12 MILLION CONTRIBUTION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE PLUS SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL LOCAL CURRENCY FINANCING.

3. COUNTRY INTERVENTIONS

MANY OF 26 DELEGATIONS THAT INTERVENED OFFERED SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT, JAPAN REVIEWD IRAN CP AT LENGTH AND PROMISED FULL SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN TRADE PROJECTS CONSIDERING THEM VITAL TO IRAN' S GROWTH. INDIA MADE MAJOR INTER- VENTION NOTING AFGHANISTAN' S CP ALSO CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF SPECIAL POSITION OF UNDP IN PLANNING PROCESS OF THAT COUNTRY. INDIA REFERRED TO IRAN' S CONTRIBUTION TO ITS CP AND HOPED THIS ALSO FIRST STEP IN GRADUAL MOVE TOWARD SELF- SUFFICIENCY FROM UNDP UNCLASSIFIED

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RESOURCES. INDIA' S INITIAL FAVORABLE REVIEW OF PAKISTAN CP ENDED WITH CRITICISM THAT AZAD KASHMIR ALSO REFERRED TO THROUGHOUT CP. ON JUNE 12 PAKISTAN DELEGATE TOOK SERIOUS EXCEPTION TO INDIA' S COMMENT ON KASHMIR AND NOTED THAT ALL OF KASHMIR WAS DISPUTED AREA. DENMARK ANALYZED AFGHANISTAN' S CP AT LENGTH COMMENDING UNDP ON ASSISTING RGA IN TACKLING DIFFICULT

ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS IN AFGHAN DEVELOPMENT. DENMARK ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED UNDP'S ABILITY TO COORDINATE PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN OF UNFPA, UNFDAC AND UNICEF. AUSTRIA REFERRED TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA CP AND FACT THAT MANY AUSTRIAN EXPERTS WERE WORKING IN THAT COUNTRY UNDER AUSTRALIA'S ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE. USSR COMMENTED IN CORDIAL FASHION ON CPS FOR AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SECTORAL PLANNING OF FORMER AND ACCENT ON RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR LATTER.

US DELEGATION (AMB. BENNETT) COMMENDED COOMARASWAMY ON HIS COMPREHENSIVE, WELL- BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE PRESENTATION AND NOTED APPROVAL OF US IN GENERAL TO FIE CPS UNDER REVIEW. HE CONFIRMED US JUDGEMENT THAT UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING SYSTEM IS WORKING EFFECTIVELY:

- (1) CPS REFLECTED COUNTRY PRIORITIES;
- (2) UNDP IS IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH HOST GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DONORS;
- (3) NUMBER AND VARIETY OF PROJECTS REDUCED; AND
- (4) OVERLPA AND DUPLICATION MINIMAL.

AMB BENNET, HOWEVER, REFERRED TO NEED FOR FURTHER REDUCTION IN SCATTERATION AND A NEED FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS. HE NOTD THAT COORDINATION IN MOST ASIAN COUNTRIES IS QUITE GOOD, THOUGH THERE COULD BE A FURTHER ENHANCEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNDP AND IBRD IN PARTICULAR. HE COMMENDED ADMINISTRATOR ON INCREASING QUALITY OF RES REPS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THEY WOULD TAKE LEAD IN INCREASING MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION. IN CONCLUSION, US COMMENDED MOVEMENT TOWARDS MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PAYING INCREASING PART OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS OF THEIR UNDP PROGRAMS.

NETHERLANDS SUGGESTED AGRO- BASED INDUSTRIES PROJECT IN PAKISTAN CP ALLOCATED INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO MEET PROJECT TARGETS.

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LAUNCHING NEW PROGRAM FOR AGRO- BASED INDUSTRIES AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST PAKISTAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH SIMILAR PROGRAMS. SUDAN CRITICAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA CP AND SUGGESTED COUNTRY SHOULD NOT RECEIVE UNDP RESOURCES UNTIL IT RECEIVED ITS FREEDOM FROM AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEESHIP. UPPER VOLTA INDICATED SIMILARITY BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND ITSELF BECAUSE BOTH WERE:

- (1) LAND- LOCKED
- (2) LEAST DEVELOPED; AND
- (3) SUBJECT TO SEVERE DROUGHT.

UNDP AND OTHE PROGRAMS IN BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED WITH
SPECIAL INTEEST AND NEW APPROACHES ADOPTED ON COMPARATIVE BASIS.

4. PLENARY SESSION OF GC APPROVED FIVE CPS OF ASIA AND FAR EAST
ON JUNE 12 TOGETHER WITH 19 ADDITION OF CPS FROM OTHER REGIONS.
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